

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2125**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin**

February 18, 2010

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An act to add ~~Section 36950~~ *Sections 35620 and 35621* to the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2125, as amended, Ruskin. Coastal resources: marine spatial planning.

Existing law declares it is the policy of the state to assess the long-term values and benefits of the conservation and development of ocean resources and uses with the objective of restoring or maintaining the health of the ocean ecosystem and ensuring the proper management of renewable and nonrenewable resources.

~~This bill would require the Ocean Protection Council to support interagency collaboration and management of geospatial information to identify priority uses and address user conflicts in the ocean environment, and analyze and develop recommendations on marine spatial planning.~~

*Existing law requires the Ocean Protection Council to coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to the protection and conservation of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean resources within existing fiscal limitations, to establish policies to coordinate the collection, evaluation, and sharing of scientific data related to coastal and ocean resources among agencies, and to identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in law needed to achieve these goals.*

*This bill would, consistent with the above goals and subject to the availability of funding, require the Ocean Protection Council, to support state agencies' use and sharing of scientific and geospatial information for coastal- and ocean-relevant decisionmaking, including marine spatial planning, by taking specified actions, to assess the needs of California's public agencies with respect to their abilities to gather, manage, use, and share information and decision-support tools relevant to ecosystem-based management, and to develop recommendations that address specified aspects of ecosystem-based marine spatial planning in the state.*

*The bill would require each state agency, board, department, or commission with ocean or coastal management interests or regulatory authority to cooperate with the council to achieve all of the specified goals, to the extent funding is made available and consistent with each entity's individual mandate. The bill would authorize the council to award grants, enter into interagency agreements, and provide assistance to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to support the achievement of these goals and would require the council to give preference to public agencies that are meeting these goals.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
- 2     *following:*
- 3     *(a) California's ocean and coastal waters are unique and*
- 4     *valuable natural resources that the state holds in trust for the*
- 5     *people of California.*
- 6     *(b) The preservation of the state's ocean resources depends on*
- 7     *healthy, productive, and resilient ocean ecosystems.*
- 8     *(c) California's coastal and ocean resources are critical to the*
- 9     *state's environmental and economic security, and integral to the*
- 10    *state's high quality of life and culture.*
- 11    *(d) Long-term protection and enhancement of California's ocean*
- 12    *resources depends on comprehensive and coordinated ocean*
- 13    *management.*
- 14    *(e) (1) Relevant, accessible, and shared scientific and geospatial*
- 15    *information is essential to effective ecosystem-based ocean*
- 16    *management.*

1     (2) *President Barack Obama has established an Interagency*  
2 *Ocean Policy Task Force (task force) to develop a national*  
3 *framework for improved ocean stewardship and a process for*  
4 *effective coastal and marine spatial planning. The task force has*  
5 *identified scientific information as a strategic asset that should be*  
6 *developed and managed on an ongoing basis to meet planning*  
7 *needs.*

8     (3) *California public agencies need better access to relevant*  
9 *scientific and geospatial information when making permitting*  
10 *decisions and conducting long-term planning for the management*  
11 *of California's coastal and ocean ecosystems. Marine spatial*  
12 *planning is a potential tool for more effective and comprehensive*  
13 *ecosystem-based management of California's oceans.*

14     (f) *Future uses of state waters present new threats and increased*  
15 *cumulative impacts. The state seeks appropriate information and*  
16 *management measures to ensure that these uses contribute*  
17 *positively to the state and do not cause unnecessary user conflicts*  
18 *or adverse impacts to our valuable coastal and marine resources.*

19     (g) *Effective ecosystem-based ocean management is enhanced*  
20 *by the state's use of scientific and geospatial information related*  
21 *to California's coastal and ocean ecosystems.*

22     (h) *Effective ecosystem-based ocean management is advanced*  
23 *by human and technological resources that support the strategic*  
24 *use of scientific and geospatial information by public agencies,*  
25 *users of coastal and ocean ecosystems, and the public. These*  
26 *resources include, but are not limited to, all of the following:*

27         (1) *Education and training of existing staff.*

28         (2) *New and retained staff members with training in geographic*  
29 *information systems and other relevant disciplines.*

30         (3) *Information discovery and search tools that facilitate*  
31 *information gathering and sharing.*

32         (4) *Decision-support tools that convey planning-relevant*  
33 *information to decisionmakers, users, and the public, and assist*  
34 *them with making planning decisions.*

35     (i) *The Ocean Protection Council was created to, among other*  
36 *things, coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to*  
37 *the protection and conservation of coastal waters and ocean*  
38 *ecosystems to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect*  
39 *ocean resources.*

1     *SEC. 2. Section 35620 is added to the Public Resources Code,*  
2     *to read:*

3     35620. (a) *Consistent with this chapter, and subject to the*  
4     *availability of funding, the council shall support state agencies'*  
5     *use and sharing of scientific and geospatial information for*  
6     *coastal- and ocean-relevant decisionmaking, including marine*  
7     *spatial planning, by taking all of the following actions:*

8     (1) *Assess the needs of California's public agencies with respect*  
9     *to their abilities to gather, manage, use, and share information*  
10    *and decision-support tools relevant to ecosystem-based*  
11    *management.*

12    (2) *Increase the amount of baseline scientific and geospatial*  
13    *information that is available to public agencies with respect to the*  
14    *following aspects of coastal and ocean ecosystems:*

15    (A) *Ecosystem health, functioning, productivity, resilience, and*  
16    *vulnerability to threats.*

17    (B) *The effects of climate change.*

18    (C) *The cumulative effects of human-caused and natural sources*  
19    *of stress.*

20    (D) *Existing and predicted patterns of human activities,*  
21    *including activities that present conflicting or compatible demands*  
22    *on coastal and ocean ecosystems or those that require the use of*  
23    *a precautionary approach.*

24    (E) *Social, economic, and cultural values, including the value*  
25    *of coastal and ocean ecosystems for providing ecosystem services.*

26    (F) *Other physical, biological, economic, social, and cultural*  
27    *information that the council determines is relevant to marine*  
28    *spatial planning.*

29    (3) *Support public agencies' collaborative management and*  
30    *use of scientific and geospatial information relevant to*  
31    *ecosystem-based management.*

32    (4) *Help identify decision-support tools relevant to*  
33    *ecosystem-based management, and, where appropriate, support*  
34    *the adaptation of those tools or the creation of new tools to serve*  
35    *the state's needs.*

36    (b) *Subject to the availability of funding, the council shall*  
37    *consider ecosystem-based marine spatial planning as a tool for*  
38    *achieving effective and comprehensive management of California's*  
39    *ocean resources and develop recommendations that address all*

1 of the following aspects of ecosystem-based marine spatial  
2 planning in the state:

3 (1) Ecosystem health, functioning, productivity, resilience, and  
4 vulnerability to threats.

5 (2) The effects of climate change.

6 (3) The cumulative effects of human-caused and natural sources  
7 of stress.

8 (4) Existing and predicted patterns of human activities, including  
9 activities that present conflicting or compatible demands on coastal  
10 and ocean ecosystems.

11 (5) Social, economic, and cultural values, including the value  
12 of coastal and ocean ecosystems for providing ecosystem services.

13 (6) Other physical, biological, economic, social, and cultural  
14 issues that the council determines are relevant to marine spatial  
15 planning.

16 (c) To the extent funding is made available for their  
17 participation, and consistent with their individual mandates, each  
18 agency, board, department, or commission of the state with ocean  
19 or coastal management interests or regulatory authority shall  
20 cooperate with the council to achieve all of the goals described in  
21 subdivisions (a) and (b).

22 SEC. 3. Section 35621 is added to the Public Resources Code,  
23 to read:

24 35621. Consistent with the council's authority and  
25 responsibility under this chapter to coordinate activities of state  
26 agencies with ocean or coastal management interests or regulatory  
27 authority, to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect  
28 ocean resources, and to establish policies to coordinate the  
29 collection and sharing of scientific data related to coastal and  
30 ocean resources among agencies, the council may award grants,  
31 enter into interagency agreements, and provide assistance to public  
32 agencies and nonprofit organizations to support this effort,  
33 including grants to improve geospatial data collection, interagency  
34 data sharing and collaboration, and tools for visualizing and  
35 analyzing these data. In allocating grants and assistance, the  
36 council shall give preference to public agencies that are meeting  
37 the goals described in Section 35620.

38 ~~SECTION 1. Section 36950 is added to the Public Resources~~  
39 ~~Code, to read:~~

1     36950. ~~Consistent with Section 30960 and this chapter, the~~  
2     council shall support interagency collaboration and management  
3     of geospatial information to identify priority uses and address user  
4     conflicts in the ocean environment, and analyze and develop  
5     recommendations on marine spatial planning, including planning  
6     principles and objectives.

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